

Dear Members of Labor and Public Employees Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly:

My name is Sarah Bromley and I live in Milford, Connecticut.

I support S.B. 1: An Act Concerning Paid Family and Medical Leave and H.B.5003: An Act Implementing a Paid Family and Medical Leave Program.

There are three personal reasons I support this legislation. Three years ago I injured my back and needed spinal surgery. After 30 years working as an Early Childhood Educator I was very worried that I wouldn't be able to work again in my very physical job or pay my bills during my recovery. I knew my job was protected for weeks by FMLA coverage, but the emotional and financial stress was significant for my family. Financially we did not recover for at least a year and came very close to bankruptcy.

The second reason I support this legislation is because my step daughter and her wife needed PFML just this year when they were pregnant with identical twin baby girls. The pregnancy was high risk and required weeks of bed rest and weeks of hospital time for the premature twins when they were born. Bringing babies into the world shouldn't be so financially stressful.

The third reason I hope Connecticut will have PFML is that I have an elderly mother who lives alone in Florida without a cell phone or car because she cannot afford them. She is in precarious health and I know that at some point in the near future, I will need to somehow take time to help her sell her house and relocate to a smaller place and also help her through a joint replacement surgery. I am an only child and have no idea how I could ever take a leave from work to help her without jeopardizing the rest of my family.

In reading the proposed legislation, the components I think are most important to make sure stay in the bills are:

- *12 weeks coverage within a 12 month period

- *coverage for all employees

- *100% wage replacement up to \$1,000/week

- *the inclusive definition of family (as in chosen family)

- *the program should be PUBLICLY administered

All the states around Connecticut have PFML. It works for them and it can work for us. I don't want my children to leave Connecticut for jobs in a neighboring state because it has this program and Connecticut does not. This program does not cost employers anything and it won't cost the state anything since it would be self-sustaining. It is humanitarian legislation that will help people while making the Connecticut economy stronger.

I strongly support S.B.1. I sincerely hope the Committee and Connecticut lawmakers will vote favorably this year to make paid family and medical leave a reality for my family and for all Connecticut workers.

Thank you for your time,

Sarah Aaron-Bromley

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